



43rd Annual
Medgar Evers / B. B. King
Mississippi
Homecoming



When Love Comes To Town... B.B. King will be in Decatur for a concert at Huff Auditorium on the campus of East Central Community College on Saturday, June 3 at 6 p.m. King will perform as part of the Medgar Evers Homecoming Celebration. King, the winner of 14 Grammys, and his partner, Lucille, will entertain those attending with his trademark blues. *Photo by Barry Brechesien*

Medgar Evers Homecoming at EC

Blues legend B.B. King headlines celebration

Music fans have a chance to celebrate when blues legend B.B. King headlines the 43rd Annual Medgar Evers Homecoming at East Central Community College on Saturday, June 3. King, a native of Indianola, will close the 6:00 show at Huff Auditorium. Opening acts Reggie P., Dorothy Moore, Sterling Williams, and Nellie Travis will precede King's performance.

The show is part of a series of statewide events honoring Evers, the slain civil rights leader who was born in Decatur.

The event is significant, according to Newton businessman Walter Gardner, who was instrumental in coordinating the show.

"Bringing these two legends together...enables all of the people in these surrounding communities to enjoy an evening of fun activity", adding that "most attendees will have some appreciation for the life and legacy of Medgar Evers".

Evers was born in Decatur and attended school there until his induction into the Army in 1943. After serving in Normandy during World War II he earned a B.A. at Alcorn College (now Alcorn State University). His effort to enroll at the University of Mississippi Law School caught the attention of the NAACP when he was denied admission.

He was appointed Mississippi's first field secretary for the NAACP in the early 1960's, a position that involved voter registration drives, economic boycotts, and sit-ins.

On June 12, 1963, Evers was shot in the back in the driveway of his Jackson home. White supremacist Byron De La Beckwith was tried twice for the murder; both trials resulted in hung juries. In the early 1990's Evers' widow Myrlie convinced prosecutors to reopen the case, and in 1994 Beckwith was tried and convicted of his murder.

Gardner notes Evers' legacy as "change for the good of Mississippi, for the good of America," adding that Mississippi has elected more African Americans to government positions than any other state.

King's stop in Decatur is part of his 2006 U.S. Tour. He's in his seventh decade as a performer, having just celebrated his 80th birthday. In February he won his 14th Grammy Award, the latest in a long list of achievements.

His hits include *The Thrill Is Gone, When Love Comes To Town, Payin' The Cost To Be The Boss, Everyday I Have The Blues, You Don't Know Me, and Why I Sing The Blues.*

Tickets for the June 3 concert at ECCC are \$25 at the door. The doors open at 4 p.m. and the show starts at 6.



King's Gibson ES-335 guitar, Lucille



Statewide, Evers will be honored in a series of events:

Friday June 2, Jackson, 12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m.: Civil Rights Tour conducted by the Mississippi State Conference NAACP. For information contact Derrick Johnson, President at 601-353-6096. 7:00 p.m.: Gospel Memorial Service at the Pearl St. A.M.E. Church, 2519 Robinson Road Jackson, MS 39209. For more information call (601) 352-6087.

Saturday June 3, Jackson: 10:00 a.m.: The 43rd Annual Parade starting at Brinkley Middle School, 3535 Albermarle Rd. in Jackson, Mississippi. Line-up will be at 8:00 a.m. For more information contact Mary "Queen Bee" Roberts at (601) 918-7464 or at WMPR 90.1 (601) 948-5835, or Councilman Kenneth Stokes at (601) 960-1090.

Sunday June 4, Pickens: 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.: The Annual Rodeo and Horse Show at the Tri-County Entertainment Center on Highway 17 in Pickens, Mississippi. The horse show will be followed by a blues concert with encore performances from Saturday's show. This concert will also be at the Tri-County Entertainment Center. Showtime starts at 8:00 pm. For more info on any of these events contact the Homecoming Committee at (601) 948-5835.

43rd Annual

Saturday June 3rd

**Medgar Evers
BB King**

**Mississippi
Homecoming**

Huff Auditorium

East Central Community College

Decatur, MS

**Starring
b.b.king**

reggie p.

dorothy moore

sterling williams

nellie travis

concert style seating

Admission \$25.00

At The Door.

Doors Open 4:00 pm

Showtime 6:00 pm

Security Provided

For Info: (601) 948-5835